

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJ: 70TH FAO COUNCIL- REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE INLAND
FISHERIES OF LATIN AMERICA

1. IN SURPRISE MOVE AT BEGINNING OF DISCUSSION ON "ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE INLAND FISHERIES OF LATIN AMERICA", PERU SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO RESTRICT PARTICIPATION IN COMMISSION ONLY TO COUNTRIES RESIDING WHOLLY WITHIN THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION. PERU WAS OF VIEW DIR GEN COULD INVITE OTHER COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE BUT ONLY IN OBSERVER CAPACITY. BRAZIL, PANAMA AND COLOMBIA SUPPORTED PERU.

2. FAO LEGAL ADVISER NOTED THAT PROPOSAL OF PERU WOULD VIOLATE ARTICLE IV, PARA ONE OF CONSTITUTION UNDER WHICH COMMISSION WAS TO BE ESTABLISHED. PERTINENT WORDING OF THIS ARTICLE SPEAKS OF "COUNTRIES RESIDING WHOLLY OR IN PART" WITHIN REGION.

3. AFTER ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS BY PANAMA AND PERU, AND FRANCE, WHICH TRIED TO SOOTHE LA CONCERNS BY ATTEMPTING DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN POLICY AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS, DIR GEN SUGGESTED THAT IN ORDER AVOID CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE, THE DRAFT RESOLUTION COULD BE AMENDED TO REFER TO "MEMBERS WHO ARE SERVED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE".

4. WHEN COUNCIL APPEARED PREPARED RECOMMEND RESOLUTION AS
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AMENDED BY SUGGESTION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL, U.S. STATED THAT

ALTHOUGH ITS GOVERNMENT HAD SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION DURING NINTH SESSION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, IN VIEW OF THEDEBATE WHICH HAD ENSUED WITH REGARD TO A LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION, THE U.S. WOULD NOW WISH TO RESERVE ITS POSITION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS COMMISSION.

5. FRANCE IMMEDIATELY RECORDED ITS RESERVATION AND THE CHAIR RULED THAT BOTH RESERVATIONS WOULD APPEAR IN THE COUNCIL'S REPORT.

6. LATIN AMERICA'S ACTION ON THIS ITEM IS OBVIOUS EXTENSION OF EARLIER MOVE (OF SOME L.A. COUNTRIES) TO RESTRICT PARTICIPATION IN LA REGIONAL CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL). IT IS TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR EARLIER CLAIM TO SEE COMPLETE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON POLICY-POLITICAL MATTERS.BEAUDRY

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